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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3224

February 11, 2010

The Honorable Dr. Steven Chu, Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Chu:

I am writing today to reiterate my concerns over the request by As Green, Inc., and/or Cielo Wind Power LP, for \$450 million in funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) for a proposed 600-megawatt wind farm project in Texas. It has been widely reported that Chinese wind turbine company A-Power Energy Generation Systems will supply all of the wind turbines and has a 49% stake in the project, which will receive substantial financing from the Chinese Development Bank and Chinese Export-Import Bank. I previously wrote in opposition to this project on December 1, 2009 with several of my House of Representatives colleagues. Since that time, new reports have surfaced indicating that the central bank of China may also lend financial support to this project. I strongly oppose allocating any Federal funds, especially Recovery Act funds, for projects such as this that favor foreign components over those made in the U.S.A.

If our country is to remain competitive in the global marketplace and break our dependence on foreign energy, we must focus our incentives on establishing a flourishing manufacturing base for renewable technologies here at home. As President Obama said in his State of the Union address last month, "the nation that leads the clean energy economy will be the nation that leads the global economy." I share the President's commitment to making America that nation.

The purpose of the Recovery Act was to aid the domestic economy and to create and sustain American jobs. Section 1605 of the Recovery Act explicitly prohibits funds from being awarded to projects that do not exclusively use U.S.-made steel, iron and manufactured goods, unless those items are "not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities." With respect to wind turbines, there are a number of U.S. companies that manufacture these components domestically. Thus, awarding any of these funds to projects that source domestically available wind turbines from overseas would be contrary to both the intent and the letter of the Recovery Act. I further urge you to refrain from incentivizing any project that is substantially financed through a foreign government-backed institution or central bank.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of these concerns. I look forward to working with you to further develop and expand the renewable energy industry in America.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL A. ARCURI
Member of Congress